



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A - 16th August 2026



Isaiah 56:1,6-7, Psalm 66(67):2-8, Romans 11:13-15,29-32

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 15:21-28

The Canaanite woman debates with Jesus and saves her daughter

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



Do you ever feel "put-off" or ignored by the Lord?: This passage describes the only occasion in which Jesus ministered outside of Jewish territory. (Tyre and Sidon were fifty miles north of Israel and still exist today in modern Lebanon.) A Gentile woman, a foreigner who was not a member of the Jewish people, puts Jesus on the spot by pleading for his help. At first Jesus seemed to pay no attention to her, and this made his disciples feel embarrassed. Jesus does this to test the woman to awaken faith in her. On a personal level, the encounter between Jesus and the Canaanite woman reflects similar situations especially when our prayers seem to go unanswered. We do well to learn from the perseverance of this Canaanite woman so that we may trust in God's mercy and help lead others into the Kingdom of God.

O Woman, Great is Your Faith! The Canaanite woman stands as one of the greatest examples of persevering faith in the Gospels. Desperate for the healing of her daughter, she repeatedly cries out to Jesus for mercy. First, Jesus answers her with silence. Then the disciples urge him to send her away. Finally, Jesus reminds her that his earthly mission is directed first to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Yet none of these apparent obstacles extinguishes her perseverance and faith. Instead, she falls before Jesus in worship and pleads once more for his help. When Jesus speaks of the children's bread and the household dogs, she responds with remarkable humility and confidence: "Even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from their masters' table." She seeks no privilege or special status, only the overflowing mercy of the Son of David. Having heard of Jesus' mighty works, she believes that he has authority over the powers of darkness. Her unwavering confidence moves Jesus to declare, "O woman, great is your faith!" Her example reminds us that authentic faith perseveres even when God seems silent, trusting that his mercy is greater than every obstacle.

Jesus first tests the woman's faith: What did Jesus mean by the expression "throwing bread to the dogs"? The Jews often spoke of the Gentiles with arrogance and insolence as "unclean dogs" since the Gentiles did not follow God's law and were excluded from God's covenant and favour with the people of Israel. For the Greeks the "dog" was a symbol of dishonour and was used to describe a shameless and audacious woman. There is another reference to "dogs" in Matthew's Gospel where Jesus says to his disciples, "Do not give to dogs what is holy" (Matthew 7:6). Jesus tests this woman's faith to see if she is earnest in receiving holy things from the hand of a holy God. Jesus, no doubt, spoke with a smile rather than with an insult because this woman immediately responds with wit and faith - "even the dogs eat the crumbs".

Seek the Lord Jesus with expectant faith: Jesus praises a Gentile woman for her faith and for her love. She made the misery of her child her own and she was willing to suffer rebuff in order to obtain healing for her loved one. She also had indomitable persistence. Her faith grew in contact with the person of Jesus. She began with a request and she ended on her knees in worshipful prayer to the living God. No one who ever sought Jesus with earnest faith - whether Jew or Gentile - was refused his help. Do you seek the Lord Jesus with expectant faith?

Reflection: Do I persevere in prayer when God seems silent, or do I become discouraged and give up? Is my faith marked by humble trust like that of the Canaanite woman? How can I help make my parish and my own life a place where others encounter the mercy of Christ? Is there someone outside the practice of the faith whom God may be inviting me to pray for or gently lead back to him?

Photo taken by Fr Alex Chow, 20 May 2025, The Banqueting Hall (1390), Skipton Castle, United Kingdom
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St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: luktim.church

Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

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SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm (SL)

Wed. 9:15am (ST)

1st Wed. Mass of
Anointing @ 10am

Thurs. 9:15am (ST)

Fri. 9:15am (SL*)

6.30pm (ST)

Sat. 9.15am (SL*)

*Rosary after Mass

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9.45 - 10.15am

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

Second weekend of each
month - bring a plate to
share (optional)

YOUNG ADULT GROUP -

Wed. 19th August @ 7pm -
9pm @ St Luke's Parish
Hall

LEGION OF MARY -

Friday 21st Aug @ 10.15am
at St Luke's Parish Hall
Kitchen. Enquiries to
Lucy 0419 591 423

Next Week's Daily Readings 17 Aug - 23 Aug Ordinary Time

MONDAY Aug 17 Ezek 24:15-24
Deut 32:18-21 Mt 19:16-22

TUESDAY Aug 18 Ezek 28:1-10
Deut 32:26-28, 30, 35-36
Mt 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY Aug 19 Ezek 34:1-11
Ps 22 Mt 20:1-16

THURSDAY Aug 20 Ezek 36:23-28
Ps 50:12-15, 18-19 Mt 22:1-14
St Bernard, abbot, doctor

FRIDAY Aug 21 Ezek 37:1-14
Ps 106:2-9 Mt 22:34-40
St Pius X, pope

SATURDAY Aug 22 Ezek 43:1-7
Ps 84:9-14 Mt 23:1-12
The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SUNDAY Aug 23 Is 22:19-23
Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8 Rom 11:33-36
Mt 16:13-20

21st SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

LUKTIM YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and the young people of Melbourne as we launch our Archdiocese's pilgrimage to World Youth Day Seoul 2027.



St Vincent de Paul Society, Blackburn South & Forest Hill conferences invite new and current members to a Welcome to New Members and Visitation workshop on Tuesday 1st September from 6.30 to 8.00pm at St Luke's Parish Hall, 46 Orchard Gve Blackburn South. RSVP to Saveria.Lavista@svdp-vic.org.au by Fri. 28th August for catering purposes.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

15 and 16 AUG

Godfrey Thong
Greg McKeown
Sarah Ahmed

22 and 23 AUG

Steve Kilroe-Smith
Kana Chelliah
Gabby Chen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

Kevin Rogers
Margaret Gearon
Susan Chen

Lynda Kilroe-Smith
Beryl Chelliah
Laura Cigana

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

Choir
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez

Choir
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee

SL WELCOMERS 15-16 Aug

5pm Val Gardiner
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

29th Aug - Bernard's Team
Bernard O'Malley, Joanne Nolan,
Melina Barcellona & Anne Allsopp

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

15th Aug - J & V Marino
22nd Aug - Fr Alex

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 22-23 Aug.

5:00pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

21st Aug
Laura Cigana & Betty Digby

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 4:
Pabs Gonzales & Chris Lim
Next week Team 5:
Anico Yee & Wilson D'Souza

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Seng Chan, Fran Davidson, Filomena Italiano, Derek Koh, Ann Jones, Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Kevin Ryan, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Greal, Josephine Alexander, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Brooke Gibb, Lee Bee Soon & Albert Lee Kheng Hua who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Kamala Narasimhan, Philip Benizi Pereira, Elizabeth Ritchie, Marshall Gomes, Alba Mendouca, Rosy De Souza, Honarato De Souza, Manu Pinto, Seby Pinto, Odon Tenorio, Jan Tesselaar, Anne Therese Wattie, Giovanna Pinzone, Joseph Biviano, Ruby Edwards, Marie Alwis, Kim Williams, Nicholas Turang, Lillian Rozario, John Wills, Mary Coleman, Sheila Palmer, Michael O'Meara, Elizabeth Rose Daglish, Felimon Burayag, Joseph & Mary Morton. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST:

For evangelization in the city. Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

BAPTISM: A very warm welcome to Katrina & Stephan Faucheur, their family and godparents as they present their son Hugo for baptism this Saturday.

TIME CHANGE FOR MONTHLY ANOINTING MASS AT ST TIMOTHY'S: Please note that **from September onwards** the start time for the Anointing Mass at St Timothy's (first Wednesday of each month) will be **11am** (changed from 10am)

NEW BLUE CHAIRS FOR ST TIMOTHY'S CHURCH: We have ordered 40 new blue chairs for St Timothy's church as some of the existing chairs and benches are very well worn. This will cost \$4,774. To donate to assist with this, please contact Sonya in the parish office or use the Tap 'n Go portal in the church foyer. A total of \$3,330 has already been donated. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed. The chairs are expected to arrive at the end of August.

PARISH & SCHOOL FETE: St Luke's Fete, in partnership with St Timothy's, will be held on **Sunday October 18th**. The next fete committee meeting is on Thurs. 10th September at 7pm in St Luke's parish hall kitchen. We are seeking donations of prizes or other items for our Silent Auction. Contact Sonya in the parish office or email stlukesfete@gmail.com. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**

MERDEKA DAY MASS & POTLUCK DINNER: Sun. 30th August 5.30pm Mass at St Luke's Church followed by dinner in the parish hall. More information on the notice boards in both churches or speak to Fr Alex.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Finding our voices](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Pray for Our Young](#)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses.

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters:

*Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),
Margaret Gearon (SL)*

Baptism Preparation: *Fr Alex*

Parish Collection Preparers

*ST: Barry Silvester &
Michael Kawalevski*

Parish Safeguarding Committee

*Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,
Darren McLean & Janette Clark*

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL & ST: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

*ST: Roster of Parishioners
SL: Greg Grant*

Church Cleaning & Flowers

*SL: Megan McLean
ST: Susan Chen*

Church Linen: *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

Parish Garden Maintenance

*ST: Des Connors
SL: Darren McLean*

Parish Choirs

*ST: Miguel Ilagan
SL: Fr Alex*

Bible Timeline: *Chris Lim*

ALPHA: *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

Young Adult Ministry:

Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto

RCIA: *David West*

St Vincent de Paul Conference

*For Assistance: 1800 305 330
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)
ST: John McCoy
SL: Margaret Gearon &
Steve Kilroe-Smith*

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Response to the Psalm: O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY/FAMILY MASS

ST TIMOTHY'S: Sunday 23rd Aug @10.30am Mass

ST LUKE'S: Next Family Mass will be on Sept 12th and on the second Saturday of each month.



Melbourne Synod 2026

A synod is a gathering of God's people who come and discern together about matters regarding faith, governance, and pastoral care. This process involves...

Melbourne Catholic

All parishioners are invited to a consultation session on Wednesday 19th August at 7pm at St Luke's Church on the three themes of the Melbourne Synod Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership and Formation & Participation.

We have been asked to give feedback by Friday 21st August. For more information, speak to Fr Alex or the facilitators: Jenny Marino, Peter Naughtin, Joelle Roussety or Peter McKeown.

Please visit the website below for more information on the three themes prior to attending the session.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

Your generous gift
supports ministries
across the Archdiocese
— bringing the Good
News to life not only in
word, but in action.

Thank you.



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the churches. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends. The Giving Weekend is this weekend, 15 & 16 August.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 CONSULTATION SESSION - ONLINE FEEDBACK

Parishioners are invited to give their feedback on the three themes of the Melbourne Synod.

Please use the following QR codes and visit the website for more details on the three themes prior to submitting feedback.

Formation &
Participation



Missionary
Leadership



Young
Discipleship



ST LUKE'S FETE in partnership with ST TIMOTHY'S - 18th October '26

We have started to promote the fete on our social media. Please like and share our posts to encourage everyone to attend the fete and support our generous sponsors.

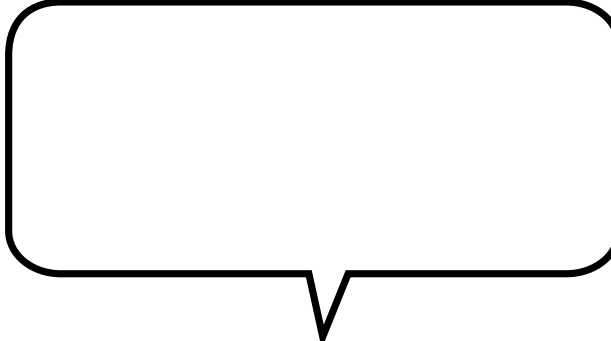
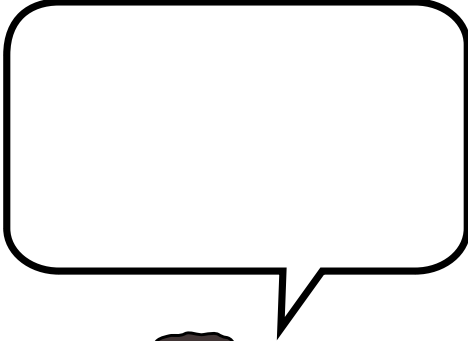
<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesfete2026/>

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukesfete/>



The woman who had faith in Jesus

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Draw the Canaanite woman asking Jesus for help. Write down what the apostles and the woman each said to Jesus.



Who are the outcasts in our community?
Write them in the footprints.



The Canaanite woman persisted because of her strong belief that Jesus would cure her daughter. Use the words below to find out what Jesus said.



_____, you have

_____.

___ your ____

be _____.

granted

wish

faith

Woman

Let

great

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 16 AUGUST 2026



COLLECT

O God, who have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love,
so that, loving you in all things and above all things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Embedded in last week's second reading (but not clearly explained) was Paul's anguished reflection on the relationship between the Jewish people and the first Christians. This is a complex story. At first, Christians continued to go to the Temple and the synagogues – as Christ himself had done. Then the Christian mission was extended to include the Gentile (non-Jewish) population. After the Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD, the separation between Christians and Jews became more pronounced. This story is the background to our readings today. Christian-Jewish relations remains a hot-button issue in the world today.

More broadly, the readings today engage us with themes of openness and inclusion, welcome and hospitality. It is not for us to draw boundaries or set limits. Let us leave these judgements to God. Instead, we respect every human being and treat them with kindness.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

56:1, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **R**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

11:13-15, 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

First Reading

Returning from exile in Babylon, the chosen people are changed – foreigners have joined them. Isaiah here is quite inclusive. Those with a care for justice and who act with integrity will be drawn into the realm of God's care. If they love and serve the Lord (which includes respecting the sabbath and the covenant), they can take part in the Jewish offerings on the holy mountain. God's house will be a house of prayer for all peoples!

From the first, this reading establishes the breadth of God's embrace. It breaks down a view we often encounter, that this is a people set apart, special in God's eyes. Instead, it opens up themes of welcome and hospitality for all.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 66/67 is quite well-known. But reading it in response to Isaiah reinforces its universality. The repeated phrases – '*all nations*', '*the nations on earth*', '*all the peoples*' – emphasise God's universal embrace of all the world. All of creation, everyone, comes to recognise God's justice and guidance, and consequently to praise God for the blessings bestowed upon the world.

Led by the cantor/reader, the whole assembly should be able to take up this resounding psalm of praise. The psalm is regular in structure and easily accessible in content. Make it jubilant!

Second Reading

Paul is writing to the Christian community in Rome, made up of both Jewish and Gentile Christians. He says he is proud to be proclaiming the gospel to the pagans, but then admits that an important dimension of this mission is to make his Jewish brothers and sisters envious. In fact, he says, the Jewish rejection of Christ has opened up the mission to the Gentiles. If this would make the Jewish community jealous and draw them to Christ, it would actually affirm their first election by God and lead them to something greater: resurrection with Christ.

The second paragraph is difficult but restates the argument. 'Disobedience' is an equivalent for 'disbelief'. Jewish disbelief in Christ opened the mission to the Gentiles, drawing the Gentiles from disbelief in God to mercy in Christ; this mercy shown to the Gentiles, Paul hopes, will lure

disbelieving Jews eventually to mercy as well. Thus, all this disbelieving may result in mercy for everyone!

The key phrase (still today a key phrase in understanding our relations with Judaism) is that '*God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice*'.

The reader should avoid 'men' and 'mankind' in the last sentence; the first can be simply omitted, the second could become 'everyone'.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew**

15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Gospel

At first sight, this is a most astonishing story: Jesus seems to be rude; a Canaanite woman gets the better of him, and he changes his mind!

In fact, the gospels all demonstrate that Jesus' proclamation of God's kingdom lay within the realm of the Jewish faith. The woman is a foreigner and outside this scope. The dialogue between them is direct and witty. The woman is sharp and assertive.

The pagan woman's recognition of Jesus as the Messiah (she calls him '*Son of David*' and '*Lord*') is surprising for us and for Jesus. But in their repartee, Jesus recognises her faith and responds accordingly.

As he wrote his gospel, this story was no doubt important for Matthew because the early Church was dealing with the new proclamation of the Gospel to the Gentiles. It serves therefore not as a witness to exclusion or exclusiveness, but rather as a foreshadowing of openness and universality. Faith is celebrated wherever it is found.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time V)

May almighty God always keep every adversity far from you
and in his kindness pour out upon you the gifts of his blessing.
Amen.

May God keep your hearts attentive to his words,
that they may be filled with everlasting gladness.
Amen.

And so, may you always understand what is good and right,
and be found ever hastening along
in the path of God's commands,
made coheirs with the citizens of heaven.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son,+ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time V, Roman Missal p. 716)

WE HAVE
SAVED A
PLACE FOR
YOU



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO
BOOK A
TOUR



We are Companions on The Journey

2026

